

METRO-EAST REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY

JULY 12, 2012 MINUTES

The Chairperson, Emil Wilson, called to order the July 12, 2012 meeting at 7:00 p.m. This meeting was held at Cannady and AuBuchon, Belleville.

PRESENT

David Bollone, Member
Emil Wilson, Chairperson
Thomas Cannady, Member
Margaret Merrell, Member
Kingston Schmid, Vice-Chairperson

STAFF PRESENT

Michael J. Pintar, Coordinator

ABSENT

Carol Neudecker, Member
Beverly Sweatman, Member
Karen Kelly, Member
Dr. Marguerite Riley, Member

GUESTS

Central School Staff
Cassie, Director of Special Ed
Dawn, Principal

INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairperson recognized that a quorum was present.

The Coordinator read the confidentiality statement that indicates that personally identifiable information should not be presented in public meetings in order to protect the privacy of those disabled persons on whose behalf the HRA conducts investigations.

The Chairperson asked for changes in the agenda the Coordinator suggested that the HRA go into closed session after the approval of minutes to discuss case 12-070-9021 with the guests present.

MINUTES

The members reviewed the stated minutes of the May 10, 2012 HRA meeting and considered them for approval. Members present agreed to approve the minutes based on a motion by Thomas Cannady, seconded by Kingston Schmid.

COMMUNICATIONS: There were no new communications

Upon a motion by Thomas Cannady, seconded by Margaret Merrell, members agreed to enter closed session at 7:11 p.m. to discuss case 12-070-9021 with the guests present. Upon a motion by Margaret Merrell, seconded by Dave Bollone the Authority returned to open session at 7:51. The visitors departed from the meeting following discussions.

NEW BUSINESS:

12-070-9032 - a consumer alleges she is denied visitation; the facility will not allow her to possess personal cosmetics and staff don't allow attorney's phone calls. She is allergic to

pork and the facility continues to offer her pork and her Social Worker refused to meet with her on a regular basis. Upon a motion by Kingston Schmid, seconded by Thomas Cannady, members agreed to table case opening.

12-070-9034 - staff will not allow him computer access and he wants to attend college. The team directed him to apply for a college before they would consider allowing him to use the computer. Because he did not have computer access, his brother in the community had to pretend that he was the consumer in order to apply. The consumer has been accepted into the program, now the facility tells him he has to wait six months. Upon a motion by Thomas Cannady, seconded by Kingston Schmid, members voted for case opening. Alton Mental Health Center

12-070-9035 - a consumer is mistreated by agency staff who will not allow her to live a normal life when staff purposely challenge consumers rather than offering a treatment style of approach when working with persons with disabilities. Upon a motion by Thomas Cannady, seconded by Dave Bollone, members voted to table case opening.

12-070-9036 - a consumer receives services and lives in an agency owned apartment. Her treatment team, including staff and Physician do not meet with her to offer a discharge plan. She has made it clear she would like to move to her home, which is out-of-state. The Physician does not want to release her to leave facility who acts as her payee. Agency staff are punishing her because she had a friend in her apartment and she likes to have an occasional drink. She goes to gambling counseling and she has not been in any trouble but the agency will not cooperate with her plan to return home and she feels as though she is being held hostage. Upon a motion by Kingston Schmid, seconded by Emil Wilson, members voted to table case opening.

12-070-9037 - In February 2012, the media announced that Gov Quinn had decided to close a state operated facility to move residents into community group homes. This was a budget decision, not based on the needs of residents. A letter from the agency Director dated February 24, 2012 indicates that the family will be contacted by Department of Human Services and still the residents and/or families have not received additional correspondence. No one has followed through on this promise or provided additional information. The HRA had a discussion, trying to determine the best way to proceed. Upon a motion by Dave Bollone, seconded by Thomas Cannady, members voted to table case opening.

13-070-9001 - a consumer was allowed to have internet access for education and restriction of rights was issued by the Center, stating that he visited websites that are not allowed by the Center. The consumer insists he has not visited any prohibited sites. He lost credit for five classes because he had to take incomplete. This affected his deferments from paying student loans. Upon a motion by Thomas Cannady, seconded by Dave Bollone, members agreed to investigate this allegation.

13-070-9002 - a facility's staff took down the posted individual rights on the living units. Upon a motion by Kingston Schmid, seconded by Dave Bollone, members voted for case opening.

13-070-9003 - a consumer has lost his opportunity to live in the least restrictive setting after a placement agency had him admitted to a 16 bed ICF/DD. The consumer is very high functioning compared to other residents who have many more issues and cannot relate or

even interact with the consumer. As a result of the placement, the consumer has lost an opportunity to live in a CILA. Upon a motion by Kingston Schmid, seconded by Thomas Cannady, members asked for additional details and agreed to table case opening.

Other New Business: Members conducted elections of officers. After a short discussion, members agreed on a slate of Thomas Cannady, Chairperson, Kingston Schmid, Vice-Chairperson and Marguerite Newton will continue as Secretary. Upon a motion by Dave Bollone, seconded by Margaret Merrell, members voted to install the officers presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Pursuant to Section 721 of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Act and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act, upon a motion by Kingston Schmid, seconded by Thomas Cannady, the Authority went into closed session at 8:50 p.m. to discuss case progress and reports of findings.

Case Progress Reports:

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Case progress reports

12-070-9005 - Alton Mental Health Center - guardian access

12-070-9010 - Alton Mental Health Center - medical treatment & not allowed to rest

12-070-9011 - Alton Mental Health Center - psychotropic medication

12-070-9013 - Alton Mental Health Center - accounting

12-070-9016 - Madison County Housing - a consumer was evicted & return property

12-070-9018 - Alton Mental Health Center - forced a blood test

12-070-9022 - Wellsprings - discrimination

12-070-9026 - Alton Mental Health Center - phones

B. Reports of Findings:

12-070-9023 & 12-070-9024 - Warren G. Murray - facility won't allow DNR & treatment team/adhere to guardian

12-070-9028 - Alton Mental Health Center - privileges

12-070-9030 - Alton Mental Health Center - privileges

C. Case Closures:

12-070-9007 - Alton Mental Health Center - computer/personal property

12-070-9008 - Alton Mental Health Center - OIG property

12-050-9017 - Alton Mental Health Center - over medicated

12-070-9021 - Central Elementary School - IEP - bullying -

The HRA returned to open session at 8:15 p.m. upon a motion by Margaret Merrell, seconded by Dave Bollone.

Upon returning to open session:

B. Reports of findings:

12-070-9023 & 12-070-9024 - Warren G. Murray - Upon a motion by Kingston Schmid, seconded by Emil Wilson members agree with report approval pending administrative endorsement.

12-070-9028 - Alton Mental Health Center - phones and privileges. Upon a motion by Kingston Schmid, seconded by Margaret Merrell, members voted to approve the report.

12-070-9030 - Alton Mental Health Center - Upon a motion by Margaret Merrell, seconded by Dave Bollone members voted for report acceptance pending administrative approval.

C. Case Closures:

12-070-9007 - Alton Mental Health Center - computers and personal property. Upon a motion by Thomas Cannady, seconded by Kingston Schmid, members voted to close the case and refer the response to the Department of Human Services Mental Health Division.

12-070-9008 - Alton Mental Health Center - OIG property - Upon a motion by Thomas Cannady, seconded by Dave Bollone, members voted to table case closure pending the Center's response.

12-070-9017 - Alton Mental Health Center - Upon a motion by Thomas Cannady, seconded by Dave Bollone, members present voted for case closure.

12-070-9021 - Central Elementary School - Upon a motion by Thomas Cannady, seconded by Kingston Schmid, members present agreed to table case closure.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS:

The next meeting will be August 16, 2012 at Thomas Cannady's Law Office 1931 West Main Street, Belleville

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Michael J. Pintar for Dr. Marguerite Riley, Recording Secretary